Appendix I

Cultural Resources

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT OF THE PATTERSON SAND AND GRAVEL EIR, PLACER AND YUBA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

Prepared by

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October 12, 2001
(Job # 00-082)

INTRODUCTION

The Patterson Sand and Gravel Project involves expansion of the existing mining area and evaluation of three alternative routes for haul roads. The current mining area incorporates 326 acres, the expansion area involves 376 acres and the study includes 110 acres of river bottom and 72 acres of preservation area. The existing mining area is already permitted and about 100 acres of the expansion area was surveyed for a previous EIR. Survey of the river bottom is useless for cultural resources, therefore, this project involves evaluation of about 276 acres of expansion area, 72 acres of preservation area and the three haul road alternatives.

This scope-of-work for a cultural resources evaluation of the Plan Area reflects the requirements of the County of Placer, serving as lead agency for the study, and federal regulations, since the presence of the Yuba River within the Project Area will result in federal involvement in the project, as will the haul road construction and connection with existing highways. Due to the many land owners involved in the road alternatives, it was impractical to obtain rights-of-access for detailed studies along the alternatives. As a result, these areas were examined through records and archives research and "windshield survey." A small amount of land on one of the road alternatives was on county-owned land and available for field inspection.

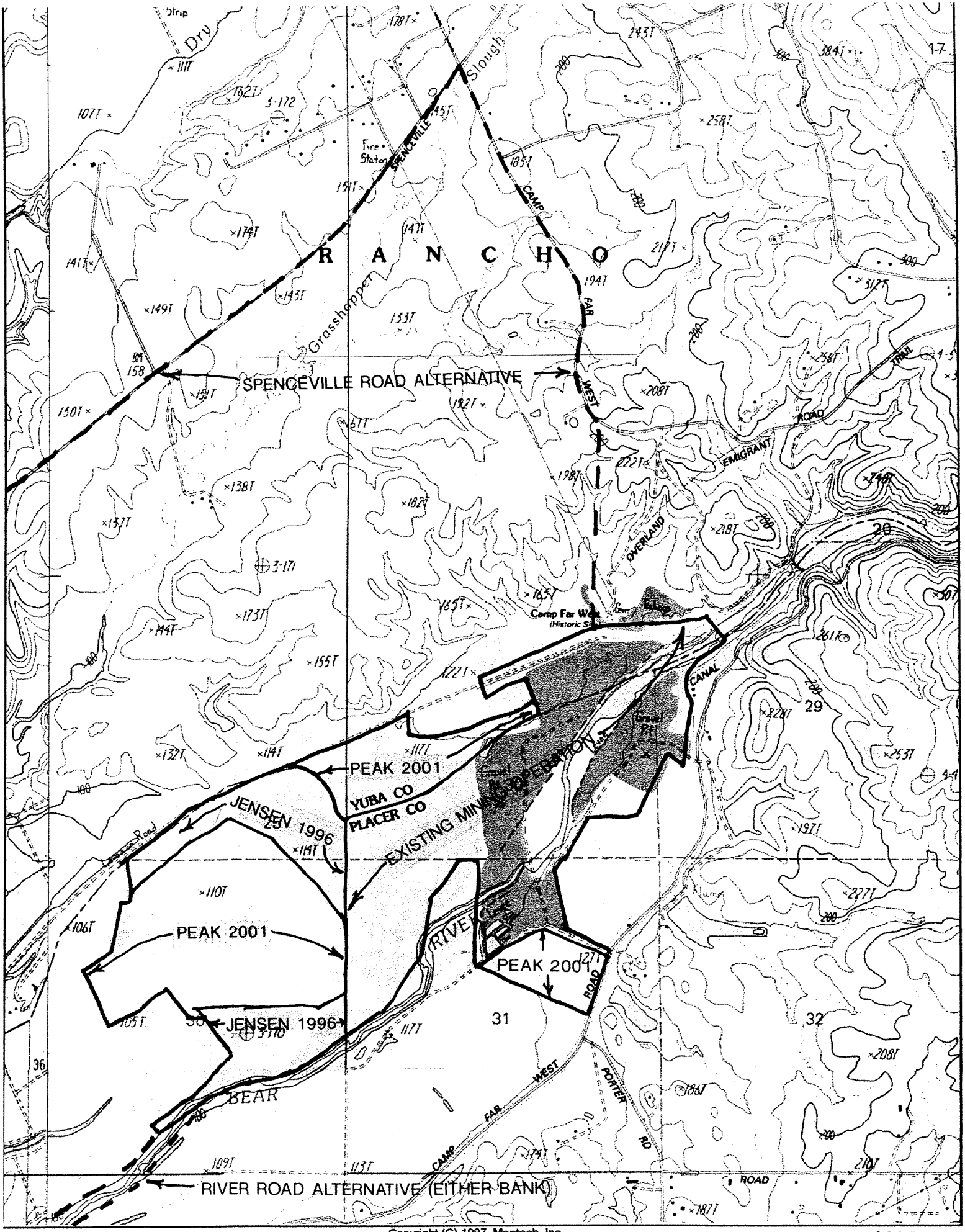
The existing mining operation and the areas that were previously surveyed, surveyed during this project and examined through research and informal survey are depicted on Maps 1 through 3.

CULTURAL HISTORY

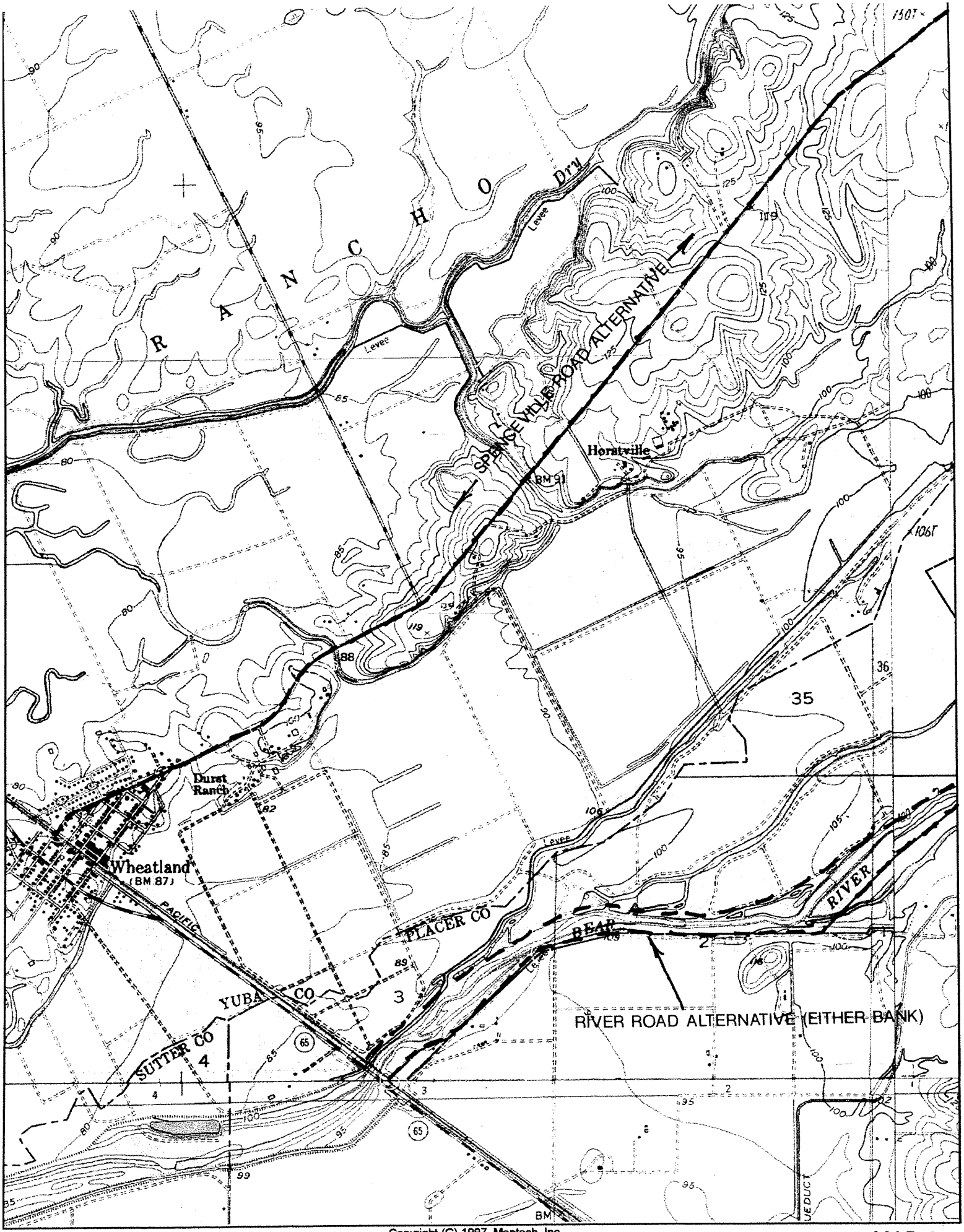
Prehistory

Until relatively recent years, the study of Sierran archeology lagged far behind the central valley and coastal areas in terms of developing regional chronologies and other basic aspects of systematic study of the prehistory of the area. The first effective synthesis of Sierran archeology was produced by Heizer and Elsasser (1953), and further refined by Elsasser (1960). Since that time, major archeological projects in the Sierra have proliferated, largely due to work on water projects and other cultural resources management-based research efforts. For the northern Sierra alone, archeological sequences, based on excavation of stratified sites and other data, are available for the Lake Tahoe vicinity (Elston 1979, 1972; Elston and Davis 1972; Elston et al. 1977), the Lake Oroville locality (Jewell 1964; Olsen and Riddell 1963; Ritter 1968, 1970a), and for the proposed Auburn Reservoir area. The latter, being of most relevance to the current project area, will be discussed briefly.

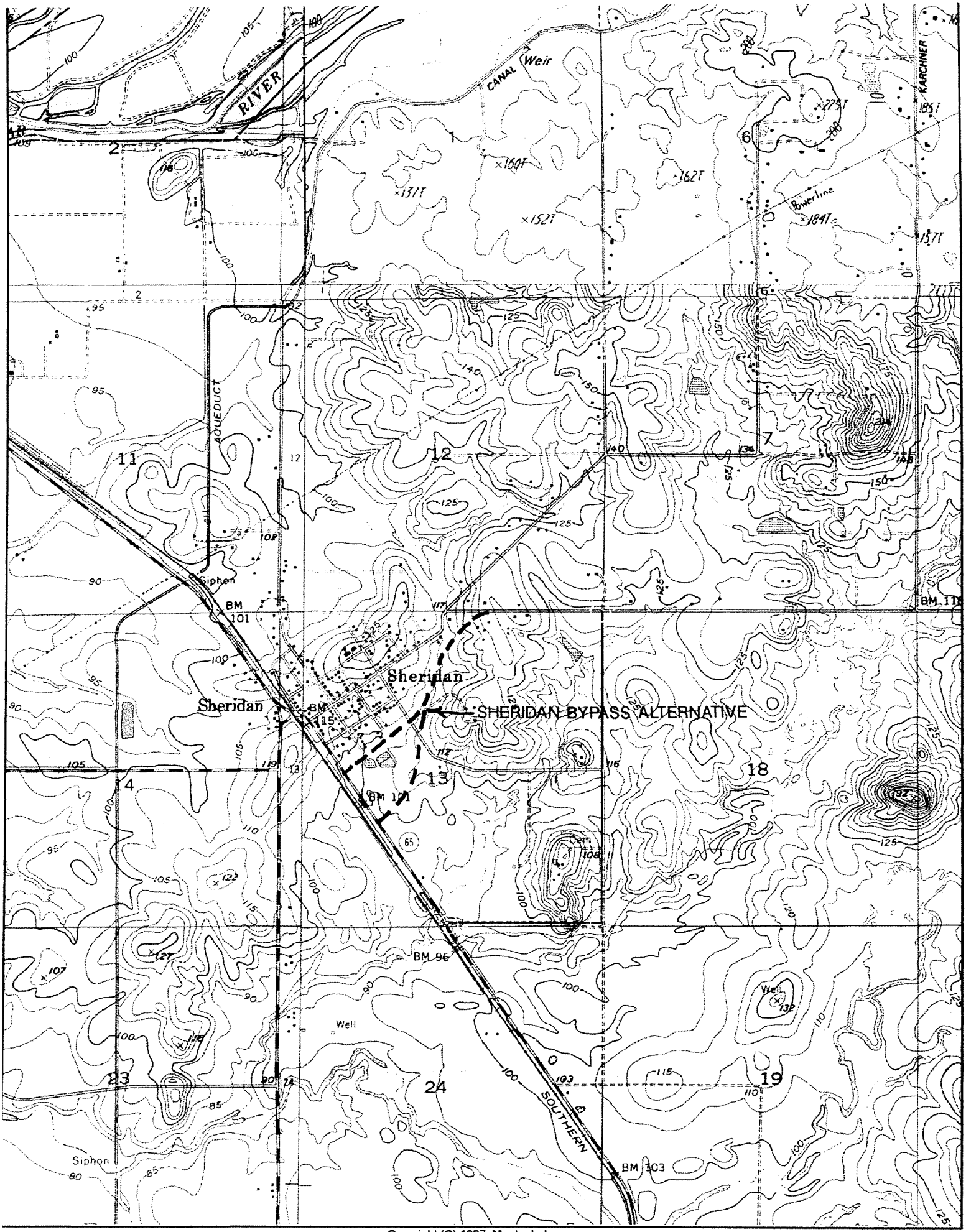
There have been several archeological reconnaissances conducted in the Auburn Reservoir area, but the great majority of prehistoric sites recorded (i.e., milling stations, surface lithic scatters, small, single-component sites) are relatively uninformative in terms of larger regional research goals. Sites that have been excavated include a chert quarry (Crew 1970) and five midden sites, all reported during Phases II and III of the Auburn Reservoir Project (Ritter, ed. 1970). The most informative of these is the Spring Garden Ravine site (CA-Pla-101), which contained three well-defined strata (Ritter 1970b). The characteristics of the cultural deposit in these strata have been used to define the cultural sequence in the Auburn region.



MAP 1



MAP 2



MAP 3

The lowest stratum (C) has been radiocarbon dated at about 1400 B.C., and contains an assemblage similar to the Martis Complex, as defined at high-elevation sites in the Sierra. The artifacts include large projectile points (mostly of basalt and slate), atlatl (dart-thrower) weights, numerous core tools, and several varieties of grinding implements. The collection would not look out of place had it been found in Martis Valley. The next stratum (B) is less easily defined, and appears to represent a transition between cultures represented by the upper and lower strata. Some of this transitional appearance may be attributable to simple physical mixing of deposits, but the basic stratigraphic integrity of the site is indicated by consistency of the two radiocarbon dates from stratum B (A.D. 1039 ± 80 and 976 ● 90). The upper stratum contains small projectile points (arrowheads), hopper mortars, and other artifacts comparable to recent archeological collections elsewhere in the northern foothills. Stratum A is, therefore, probably a manifestation of the ancestral Nisenan, the Indian group inhabiting the area at the time of Euro-American contact.

Ethnography

The Nisenan, or Southern Maidu, occupied the upper drainages and the adjacent ridges of the Yuba, Bear, the north, middle, and south forks of the American, and at least the upper north side of the Cosumnes rivers. The eastern limit of the territory is conventionally believed to extend to the crest of the Sierra. As well, the Nisenan in the valley proper occupied some area west of the lower reaches of the Feather River (Wilson and Towne 1978).

The Nisenan linguistically are grouped with the Northern Maidu and Konkow within the Penutian family (Riddell 1978:387). Kroeber distinguished three dialects within the larger territory occupied by the Nisenan, but Riddell indicated more distinctions are possible. Wilson and Towne (1978) distinguished several "centers," presumably linguistic and social groupings.

The Nisenan were socially integrated at the village or community group level (Wilson and Towne 1978), with the group participating in the decision-making process. The villages would range in size from 15 to 25 people to, at least in the Valley Nisenan, villages over 500 people (Kroeber 1925:821). A very large settlement consisted of a major village and associated smaller camps, whether general or specialized in nature. A headman, respected by all, residing in the major village had the authority to call upon the smaller associated groups in times of need, although the smaller groups did not have to always obey.

The villages for the Hill Nisenan were located on ridges and flats along the major streams and rivers within their territory. The satellite encampments and villages were probably located on the smaller water courses surrounding or nearby the major village. The lower Bear River was an area of population concentration and several villages occupied during the contact period have been identified in the area, but most have not been matched to known archeological sites (Wilson and Towne 1978:388, Fig. 1).

The Nisenan, as with other Sierran groups, moved into the higher elevations during the hot summer months. The main activity was the collecting of pine nuts and numerous other species of nuts, roots, and berries. This was done primarily by women and children. The foraging groups in a locale could range from small, extended family groups, composed of a woman, her immediate female kin, and their adolescent children to whole villages (Wilson and Towne 1978:389). The men spent most of their time hunting or fishing for a wide variety of fish and animals. Hunting was noted as often involving communal drives, with the best archers of the village posted to do the killing (Wilson and Towne 1978:389). Individual hunters made extensive use of decoys and imitative sounds.

Most Nisenan never left the territory used by their own village group. However, there were, in most large villages, at least some individuals who engaged in rather extensive trade with several valley groups as well as Sierra groups, such as the Washo. The Hill Nisenan probably acquired obsidian and basketry from the east, in exchange for acorns from the Washo (Davis 1974:38; Freed 1966:78), but it is presently unclear whether they were visited by the Washo or they visited the Washo or both. Presumably, the exchange network functioned in the summer and fall.

History

The lower Bear River area in the vicinity of the project area was very important in the early history of California. An employee of John Sutter, Pablo Guiterrez, was awarded five leagues of land in 1844. This ranch was located on the north side of the Bear River and included parts of the current project area. When Guiterrez died Sutter, as magistrate of the region under the Mexican government, sold the ranch at auction. It was purchased by William Johnson and Sebastian Kayser for $150. Kayser took the lower portion of the ranch and Johnson took the upstream half, including the area near the current project. The main ford of the river became known as Johnson's Crossing and the the ranch as Johnson's Rancho (Hoover *et al.* 1990:540).

A main branch of the California Trail descended from Donner Pass along the Bear River. Johnson's Rancho was the first Euro-American Settlement encountered by travelers along this trail. This included the survivors of the Donner Party. The seven men who hiked out of the camp at Donner Lake found help at Johnson's Rancho and a relief party organized at the Rancho brought out those who survived the tragedy. Johnson eventually wed Mary Murphy, one of the survivors.

This route continued to be important throughout the period of California history when wagons were the primary mode of travel. In addition to the ranch house, located just east of the wagon road to the ford, the Burtis Hotel was constructed just south of the road to serve travelers on the Emigrant Road. A portion of the Rancho was ceded to the U.S. government, after the Bear Flag revolt, for a military post to protect travelers on the trail from the largely mythical depredations of the Nisenan. Camp Far West was only in operation from 1849 to 1852. Malaria had been a serious problem at the post and when the government realized the military presence was not particularly necessary, the Camp was abandoned.

The area of Johnson's adobe and the Burtis Hotel lies immediately north of the current project area, however, it is further north than might be expected. Hydraulic gold mining above the project area resulted in washing tons of debris down the Bear River; so much that the course of the river was altered far to the south of its original course. The current (and future) Patterson Sand and Gravel operations are related directly to that debris and centered on the new course of the river. The old course, and the remains of Johnson's Rancho are north of the existing and proposed mining areas.

Quite a community developed around Johnson's Crossing in the 1850s, enough to get its own post office in 1853. However, it was nearly destroyed by flooding in 1862 and this, followed shortly by the huge accumulation of mining debris, finished the settlement.

Theodore Sicard built an adobe about one-half mile above Johnson Crossing on the south side of the river in 1845, the first Euro-American settlement in Placer County. The following year, he and fellow Frenchman Claude Chana began the first commercial orchard in the Sacramento Valley. Whatever may have remained of this pioneering effort was buried under debris washed down the Bear River during the hydraulic mining (Hoover *et al.* 1990:259).

In general, although the general project vicinity was important in the very early years of Central California's history, the scene of this early activity was bypassed by later transportation corridors, very damaging mining activities destroyed most of the remains and time and neglect have eliminated most of what was left. Most of Camp Far West is under the reservoir, the Sicard/Chana operation has completely disappeared and Johnson's Rancho has been reduced to minor structural remnants and a large artifact scatter recorded as CA-YUB-1195-H (later, P-58-1213-H). The remains were recorded as part of a project conducted for the Oregon-California Trails Association (Horn 1988).

INFORMATION CENTER RECORD SEARCH

A record search was conducted by the North Central Information Center of the Califrornia Historical Resources Information System on June 15, 2001. The Information Center identified several recorded resources near project elements and three previous surveys in and near project elements. Unfortunately, the report on previous survey within the mining area (Jensen & Associates 1996) has not been submitted to the Information Center. Fortunately, the project proponent, through EDAW, Inc., supplied us with a copy.

The Jensen & Associates project involved survey of about 100 acres that was previously proposed for expansion of the mining. Part of their survey is now part of the current expansion and part is preservation area. They recorded no resources within their survey area.

Other surveys in the vicinity included Storm (1979), a large survey which covered only a very small portion of the current study area at and near the junction of Spenceville Road and Camp Far West Road (Spenceville Road Alternative). The entire mining area, including the expansion areas, the River Route Alternative for the haul road and part of Spenceville Road in and near Wheatland was examined by Stoll and Thompson (1960). This very old and vague report is not useful for current purposes. Small areas adjacent to Spenceville Road in Wheatland were surveyed by Lidstrom (1996) and Peak & Associates (1999). An old route of the Sheridan Bypass Alternative was surveyed by Peak & Associates (1991).

Sites recorded in the study area include the remains of Johnson's Rancho, as noted in the cultural history section, a site related to the military base lies east of Camp Far West Road and was recorded by Storm and the railroad parallel to route 65. Several sections of the railroad have been recorded as CA-PLA-690-H, the route of the California Central Railroad this area. All of the haul road alternatives terminate at Route 65 and cross or come very near to the railroad.

The Information Center also consulted historic maps and registers of historic resources. Since much of the project area lies within a Mexican Land Grant, it was not public land and, therefore, not public land mapped by the General Land Office (GLO). The earliest map of this area is the sketch of ranch boundaries (diseño) made when the grant was awarded and the plat of boundaries made when the ranch was confirmed by the United States. Neither of these maps were concerned with interior details, although the latter, dated 1856, does show Johnson's adobe and the Burtis Hotel. No other detailed maps of much of the project area were available until the USGS started producing topographic maps in the 1900s. The grant of Sicard Ranch, on the south side of the river, was not accepted by the U.S., therefore, this was public land and the GLO prepared a plat in 1868, much of it based on earlier surveys. This plat does not show much of interest in the current project except that it clearly maps both the old and new channels of the Bear River.

Two resources in the area are registered as California Historical Landmarks, Johnson's Rancho (number 493) and the Overland Emigrant Trail (799-3). The plat of Johnson's Rancho clearly shows two alternative routes for the emigrant trail meeting at Johnson's Crossing. This is true of much of the trail route, that at various times the route in use varied from the routes used previously and afterward. The route except where restricted by natural topography, is a wide corridor where people took whatever specific route seemed best to them.

The Durst House in Wheatland is mentioned in the California Inventory of Historic Resources. It was at Durst Ranch that a famous confrontation occurred in the battle, still going on, to improve living conditions for migratory agricultural laborers in California. Rioting broke out when authorities moved in to break up a union meeting and four people were killed, the sheriff and district attorney on one side and two workers on the other. Two leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World (known as "Wobblies") were convicted of murder as a result, and the Wobblies virtually disappeared from Central California.

The California Inventory of Historic Resources also lists Johnson's Crossing and the Camp Far West Cemetery. The latter, which is plotted on the current USGS map of the area, is one of the few remnants of the camp that remain and is near the Spenceville Road Alternative.

FIELD SURVEY

The field inspection was conducted by a team led by Robert Gerry of Peak & Associates, Inc., on August 10-12, 2001. About 298 acres were surveyed in the expansion/preservation area and minor parts of the Sheridan Bypass were walked. The portions of the Spenceville Road Alternative on public routes (Spenceville Raod and Camp Far West Road) were examined within the existing right-of-way. The rest of the project elements, the bulk of the River Route Alternative and the Sheridan Bypass Alternative and the southeastern portion of the Spenceville Road Alternative were not field inspected, although they were covered in the research phase of the project.

The survey team of experienced archeologists utilized 15 to 20 meter survey intervals to insure adequate coverage. There was almost no chance of the survival of cultural resources in most of the survey area. Of the three parcels of expansion/preservation land that were surveyed, the northern consisted mostly of an abandoned orchard, the western is current orchard and the southern is an irrigated agricultural field. The deep ripping needed to install an orchard, and the plowing and irrigation needed to maintain it, insures that most cultural resources except deeply buried archeological sites will be destroyed in an orchard area. The same applies to irrigated agriculture except that land leveling, rather than ripping, is the initial impact. The survey consisted primarily in trying to find artifacts or lithic waste material from artifact manufacture that might have been brought up by plowing from a buried source. No such evidence was found.

The area of Johnson's adobe house and the Burtis Hotel was relocated to insure that it would not be impacted by the proposed expansion. Although we did not have permission to enter the property that contains most of the site, we were able to locate outlying elements that were noted on the site record. The site is north of the expansion area and separated from it by a road and a concrete-lined irrigation canal.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no evidence that the expansion of the mining area will occasion any impact to significant cultural resources. No additional study is needed in this area. When the haul road alternative is selected, a detailed evaluation of the selected alternative should be completed. There are no known resources on the alternatives that will be adversely effected, but all of the alternatives have areas that were not field inspected.

We would suggest that the Sheridan Bypass has the least potential for cultural resources. The Spenceville alternate passes along the boundaries of Camp Far West and could encounter historic resources there or along Spenceville Road, which is an old route that could have historic resources along it and which crosses a branch of the Emigrant Trail. On the other hand, the bulk of this alternative is on existing roads where cultural resources are not known within the right-of-way. Almost none of the River Route could be field inspected. Although most of this follows the new course of the Bear River, it is still within the flood plain of the old river and, therefore, sensitive for archeological resources, particularly prehistoric sites that could be buried by mining debris. The Sheridan bypass crosses some open land, but it is relatively hilly and not close to natural water supplies. There is a relatively small chance of archeological resources in this area. From visual inspection, mostly at a distance, there appears to be no historic structures on this alignment.

As a general recommendation, we would note that the mining area and portions of the haul roads are in a zone of very deep accumulation of mining debris. A surface survey cannot possibly insure that no cultural resource is present in such an area, particularly prehistoric sites that might survive with a deep layer of historic debris deposited on top of them. We recommend that if construction or mining activities uncover artifacts, bone or exotic rock (particularly obsidian), then a qualified archeologist should be contacted to examine the deposit and determine its nature and significance. State law requires that if bone is discovered which might be human, the County Coroner must be contacted. If the Coroner determines that the bone is Native American in origin, he will contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento to identify most likely descendants.

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APPENDIX 1

Resumé of Investigator

PEAK & ASSOCIATES, INC.
RESUME

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January 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mr. Gerry has over twenty years of extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. He has directed all types of cultural resource-related projects, including field survey, test excavations, data recovery programs, intensive archival research and cultural resource management. He has completed archeological work in most cultural areas of California and in the western Great Basin.

EDUCATION

Graduate studies - Anthropology - California State University, Sacramento, 1972-1977
B.A. - Anthropology - University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, 1972

RECENT PROJECTS

Mr. Gerry was field director for a cultural resources survey of about 18,640 acres within the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1, Kern County, California. The project employed a stratified random sampling strategy and resulted in the recording of 112 cultural resources, and preparation of a management plan. He also directed a subsequent excavation program for evaluation of significance. Additionally, he served as field director for archeological surveys on the Plumas, Stanislaus, El Dorado and Six Rivers National Forests.

He was field director and primary report writer on several linear surveys of considerable length -- including the San Joaquin Valley Pipeline (157 miles) for Shell Oil, the Point Arena-Dunnigan fiberoptic cable (137 miles) and the Medford, Oregon, to Redding, California fiberoptic cable (151 miles), the Oregon and Idaho portions of the Spokane to Boise fiber optic cable, and the San Bernardino to San Diego fiberoptic cable, for American Telephone & Telegraph Company. He also assisted on the 170 mile Pacific Pipeline survey on the southern coast of California.

He produced the computer program that stored, sorted and printed out data abstracts for 1604 sites involved in the Enlarged Shasta Dam and Alternatives Class I Cultural Resources Overview for the Bureau of Reclamation. He directed the transit-and-stadia mapping of a prehistoric/ historic site complex covering some 170 acres in El Dorado County and drafted the final map.

Mr. Gerry has developed a specialty in bridge replacement evaluations, completing five such studies in Tuolumne County, two in Santa Barbara County, two in Amador County and eight others in various areas of California.

Mr. Gerry has had extensive experience in the recordation of mining sites in northern California and Nevada for proposed mining undertakings as well as in the couse of survey for proposed subdivisions,

reservoirs, and other development projects. He directed the survey of two parcels totalling 2,240 acres in the Battle Mountain Mining District in Lander County, recording a number of mining sites and features. Within the Cook Ranch Project area in El Dorado County, he completed the recordation of several gold mines and a cinnabar mine.

Mr. Gerry has directed test excavations for evaluation of significance at a number of sites, both historic and prehistoric. Recent examples include CA-NAP-261, twelve sites on Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1 and three sites on Russell Ranch in Sacramento County.

His work has included an important role in working with Native American peoples. He has surveyed eight allotments and rancherias in the Pit River area, the Point Arena/Manchester Rancheria in Mendocino County, the Susanville Rancheria in Lassen County, the Rumsey Rancheria in Yolo County, and three rancherias in northwestern California. In each of these projects, he has been closely involved with Native American organizations and individuals, including a number of native people he has directed as surveyor trainees.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

Patterson Sand and Gravel's Proposed Western Expansion Project, c. 100 acres east of Wheatland, Placer County, California.

Prepared for

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April 29, 1996

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL - HISTORICAL - CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey of approximately 100 acres of land located c. 4 miles east of Wheatland, and 2.5 miles northeast of Sheridan, in western Placer County, California (Figure 1). The property consists of two irregular-shaped parcels, the northern of which is located adjacent to the south side of the line dividing Yuba and Placer Counties, while the southern parcel is located adjacent to the north bank of the Bear River. The property incorporates primarily flat terrain adjacent to walnut orchards, and is currently used for livestock grazing and related ranch activities. Identified as a portion of the historic "Johnson Rancho", the project area is now owned and operated by the "Estate of Samuel Mills Damon". Proposed action for this property may involve gravel extraction by Patterson Sand & Gravel of Sheridan, California, followed by extension of the existing orchard into the project area.

According to agency definitions, these proposed land uses and land use changes constitute an "undertaking" which could adversely affect various types of resources located within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). Evaluation of effects to such resources must be undertaken in conformity with Placer County rules and regulations, which in turn must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code. Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines), prepared by the Office of Planning and Research and published in June of 1986. Additionally, since the project may in the future be required to secure a 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers, the project may at some point have to conform with federal guidelines for assessing effects to cultural resources, including in particular Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593, Section 101(b)(4) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, and other rules and regulations.

Scope of Work

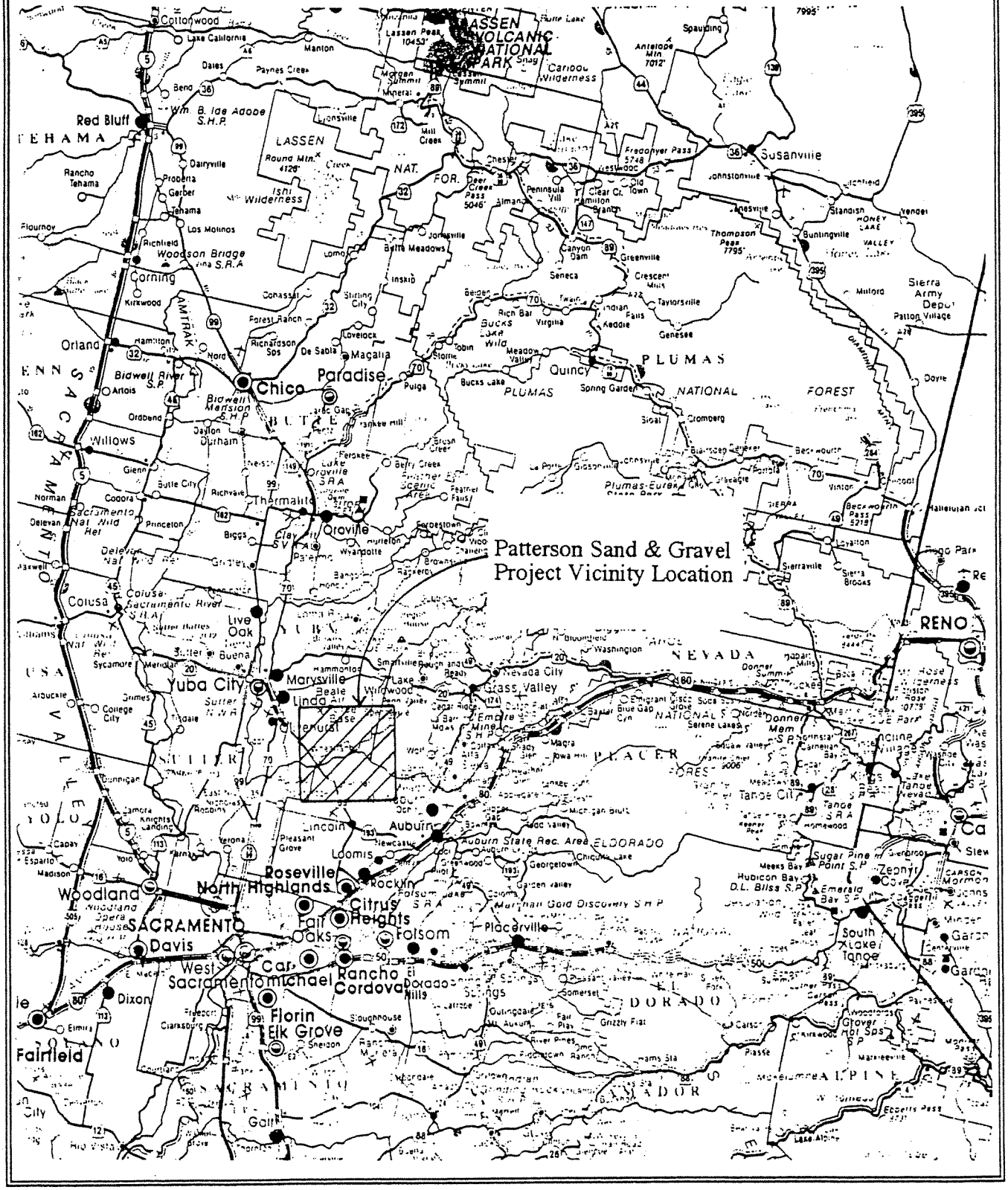
Section 106 of the NHPA, and the relevant CEQA Guidelines, led to identifying the following specific tasks as adequate and appropriate for the present project:

- Conduct a records search at the North Central California Information Center at CSU-Sacramento to determine if any previously recorded sites exist within or adjacent to the project area. The goals of the records search are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationships between known sites and environmental variables. This step is designed to ensure that, during subsequent field survey work, all significant cultural resources are discovered, correctly identified, fully documented, and properly interpreted.

EXHIBIT 7

Archaeological/Historic Inventory

Figure 1
Vicinity Map



- Conduct a pedestrian field survey of the APE in order to record and evaluate any previously unidentified cultural resources. Based on map review, a complete coverage survey, possibly variable-intensity, was considered appropriate, dependent upon whether variable sensitivity zones were found to characterize the project area.

  The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that any previously recorded sites which may have been identified during the records search are re-located, evaluated, and site documents up-dated to current inventory-level standards. For any previously undocumented sites discovered, the field survey would involve formally recording these resources. For both previously identified and newly identified sites, the level of field work was to be sufficient to recommend measures designed to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects of the proposed undertaking.

- Upon completion of the records search and the pedestrian survey, a Final Report would be prepared which identifies project effects and recommends appropriate mitigation measures for significant or potentially significant sites which might be affected by the proposed undertaking.

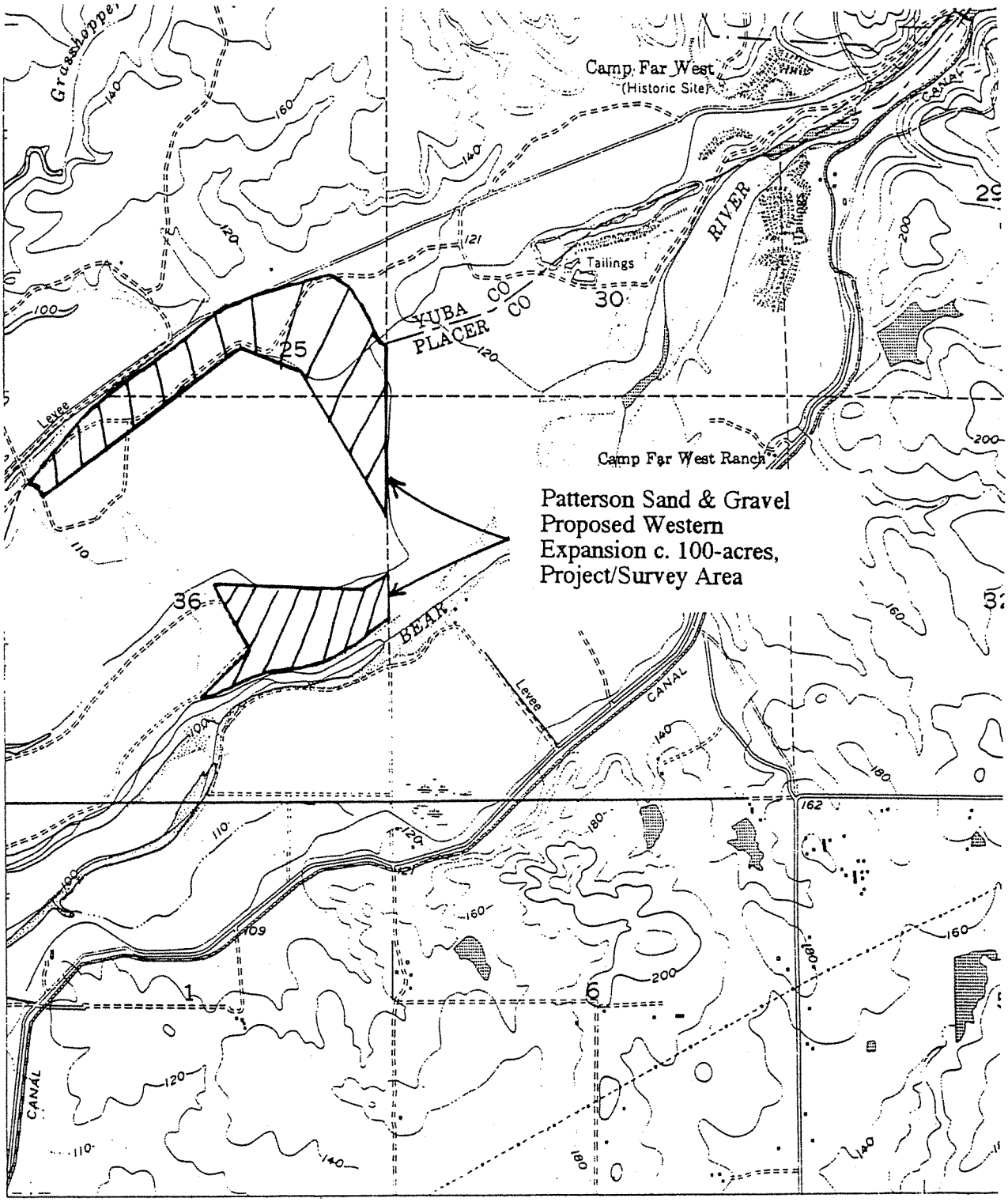
The remainder of the present report constitutes the Final Report for this project based upon the above Scope of Work, and details the results of the records search and inventory survey, and provides recommendations for treatment of cultural resources which could be affected by the proposed undertaking. All field work procedures followed guidelines provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (Sacramento) and are in conformity with accepted professional standards.

Location

The present project area consists of a total of approximately 100 acres of land located c. 4 miles east of Wheatland and 2.5 miles northeast of Sheridan in western Placer County, California. Much of the land in this area of the county remains undeveloped for residential use, although ranching and agricultural activities have been undertaken since about 1840. These early ranching operations and subsequent agricultural developments have involved construction of roads, a variety of residential and ranch structures, and additional features of various types -- e.g., stock ponds, irrigation components (i.e., wells, check dams, shallow ditches, etc.). As well, gold dredging operations were undertaken along the Bear River at nearby Camp Far West and at other locations along this stream. Collectively, these various historic activities (ranching, agriculture, and mining) have affected the local cultural resource base and destroyed or impacted numerous archaeological sites in the region. However, it should also be noted that the overall level of site destruction has been much less severe than at many higher elevation zones in Placer and adjacent counties, where more intensive gold mining and logging activities were undertaken.

As noted below in Figure 2, the overall project/survey area is located within portions of the southeast quarter of Section 25, and portions of the east half of Section 36, of Township 14 North, Range 5 East, as shown on the USGS Camp Far West, California, 7.5' Series quad.

Figure 2
Project Location and Archaeological Survey Area Map
(from USGS Camp Far West, 7.5')



Elevation within the project area ranges from approximately 100 to 120 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Soils are comprised primarily of granitic sediments deriving from the western margins of the northern Sierra Nevada mountains. Very few boulders or rock outcrops are present within the project area. As noted above, the Bear River proceeds northeast-southwest along the southern boundary of the project. Originally following the present-day county line from Camp Far West westerly, the Bear River has been diverted to its present course from an alignment which happens also to define the approximate northern property boundary.

Overall, and based on an examination of available topographic and other maps, the project area appeared to contain lands ranging from low to high in sensitivity for prehistoric sites and isolates, and from moderate to high in sensitivity for historic-era sites and features.

Records Search

Prior to conducting the pedestrian field survey, the official Placer County archaeological records maintained by the North Central California Information Center at CSU-Sacramento were examined for any existing recorded prehistoric or historic sites (Correspondence dated March 8, 1996, from Marianne Russo of the Information Center to J. Fred Barber of Western Planning and Research, on behalf of Patterson Sand & Gravel). These records indicate the following existing conditions for the project area.

Previous Survey: No systematic, inventory-level surveys have been conducted within the project area. However, a superficial, or cursory-level survey of the project area and adjacent lands was conducted by two students (Stoll and Thompson) in 1960. No cultural resources were observed or recorded within the project area during the 1960 survey. This early survey of the project area is considered potentially inadequate for current inventory-level standards. Additional surveys within the project vicinity include 1) Horn's 1988 survey of the Johnson Ranch Site (CA-YUB-1195-H), which examined features associated with the original Johnson Adobe, Johnson Crossing, and a segment of the California Emigrant Trail site, all located north of the present project area; and 2) Bethard's 1984 survey for a proposed hydroelectric project which had been proposed for the Bear River Canal, approximately 1 mile south of the project area. There appears to be no overlap of these latter two surveys with the present project boundary, and as a result, no sites were recorded within the current study area.

Documented Properties: A number of historic sites and features associated with the historic Johnson Rancho have been identified in close proximity to the project area (see discussion, above). Additionally, the 1949 USGS quad map shows two dirt roads within the project area, with a third transportation corridor located between the two parcels. For the alignments located within the project area, it was considered a real possibility that substantial agricultural- and ranch-related impacts may have occurred to these features to the point that all historic attributes had been eliminated.

In addition to the above information, the 1856 Johnson Rancho plat identifies the historic course of the Bear River which is currently used as the line dividing Yuba and Placer Counties, the Johnson Adobe House, the Burris Hotel, the Sacramento and Nevada Road, a second adobe house, and historic roadways and fences, all situated a short distance to the north, northwest and northeast of the project area and outside of the present project boundary. A mill is shown within the northern parcel of the present project boundary, however, no additional information on this site was available.

In addition to examining the official records of Placer County as maintained by the North Central California Information Center, the following additional sources were consulted:

1. The National Register of Historic Places (1979, 1989, Supplements to 12/92);

2. The California Inventory of Historic Resources (State of California 1976);

3. The California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1990);

4. Mr. Jerry Logan, Western Placer County historian;

5. Existing published and unpublished documents relevant to prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments in the vicinity. These sources provided a general environmental and cultural context by means of which to assess likely site types and distribution patterns for the project area, and are summarized below under ***Project Context.***

PROJECT CONTEXT

As noted above, several types of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution which might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting field work includes data on regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments.

Prehistory: One of the earliest clearly dated contexts for human occupation in north central California is from site CA-SHA-475 located north of Redding on Squaw Creek, where a charcoal based C-14 date suggests initial Native American presence within this area around 6,500 years ago. Continuous use of the region is indicated on the basis of evidence from this and other regional sites, particularly within the Farmington area southeast of Sacramento and along the Truckee River drainage northeast of Nevada City. Most of the artifactual material dating to this time period suggests cultural affiliation with the Borax Lake area -- the presence of large wide-stemmed projectile points and manos and metates being the most prominent and distinctive artifact types represented. The possibility exists that this early culture represents Hokan-speaking peoples who were also ancestral to those who subsequently expanded into the southern Cascade, the southern Klamath, the northern Coast Range areas, and the lower reaches of the northern Sierra Nevada within the present project area.

Within the northern Sierra Nevada, this culture has been archaeologically defined as the Martis Complex, a wide-spread prehistoric culture which may first have entered the area around 2,000-3,000 years ago. Relying on hunting and gathering, these people apparently occupied a variety of site types during seasonal movements throughout the region. Distinctive artifact types include relatively large, heavy projectile points and bifaces manufactured from locally available basalt. Important food processing implements included manos and metates.

The Martis "people" are believed to have occupied the northern Sierra Nevada for a period of at least 1,000-2,000 years in duration, evolving regional cultural variants and refining aspects of their adaptation (see, for example, Jensen 1978; 1980; Elston *et al.* 1977). Sometime around A.D. 200-400, the first major disruption of this possibly Hokan-speaking population by Penutian immigrants occurred. Arriving ultimately from southern Oregon and the Columbia and Modoc Plateau region and proceeding down the major drainage systems

(including the Feather, Yuba and American Rivers), these Penutian-speaking arrivals eventually displaced the Martis populations as far west as the Sacramento Valley floor and the margins of the Sacramento River. At the time of contact with Euroamerican populations (circa. A.D. 1850), these Penutian-speaking peoples were still expanding into areas previously occupied by the Martis "culture". Presumably introduced by the later arrivals were more extensive use of bulbs and other plant foods, animal and fishing products more intensively processed with mortars and pestles, and perhaps the bow and arrow and associated small stemmed- and corner-notched projectile points. In the northernmost Sacramento Valley, the so-called Shasta (archaeological) Complex represents the material culture record of the local Penutian speakers. Generally similar expressions characterize the northern Sierra Nevada.

Ethnography: The present project area is located within territory which was occupied by the Nisenan (Wilson and Towne 1978: Figure 1), Native American peoples who are also referred to as "Southern Maidu." These Penutian-speaking peoples occupied the drainages of the southern Feather River and Honcut Creek in the north, through Bear River and the Yuba and American River drainages in the south, extending from the crest of the Sierra Nevada westerly to the Sacramento River. The basic social unit for the numerous Nisenan tribelets which comprised the Nisenan peoples was the family, although the village may also be considered a social, as well as a political and economic, unit. Villages were frequently located on flats adjoining streams, and were inhabited mainly in the winter as it was usually necessary to go out into the hills and higher elevation zones to establish temporary camps during food gathering seasons (i.e., spring, summer and fall). Villages typically consisted of a series of bark houses, numbering from four or five to several dozen or more in larger villages, each house containing a single family of from three to seven people. Larger villages, with from twelve to fifteen or more houses, might also contain an earth lodge.

Economic life for the Nisenan revolved around hunting, fishing and the collecting of plant foods. The collection and processing of these various food resources was accomplished with a wide variety of wooden, bone and stone artifacts. These people were very sophisticated in terms of their knowledge of the uses of local animals and plants, and of the availability of raw material sources which could be used in manufacturing an immense array of primary and secondary tools and implements. Based on the results of previous survey work within the general and immediate project area (see, for example, Jensen and Wren 1978; Jensen and Reed 1980; Jensen 1978, 1993; 1994; 1995), the expected range of prehistoric site types within the present project area included the following:

1. *Occupation Sites* - Major habitation areas are known to be most prevalent next to water sources. Within the project area, such water sources exist in the form of both the current Bear River alignment, and the historical alignment of the Bear River;

2. *Rock Shelter and Cave Sites* - For the most part, this type of occupation site was likely to be absent from the project area, due to the absence of suitable geology and geomorphology;

3. *Bedrock Milling Stations* - Bedrock mortars and occasional metate "slicks" occur at widely scattered locations, although usually in proximity to major and seasonal occupation sites. Since extensive bedrock exposures exist in this area of Placer County, such sites were considered possibly present;

4. *Rock Art (Petroglyph) Sites* - This site type is common along the Bear, Feather and Yuba River drainage systems in this area of the Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The most prolific examples have been documented at large occupation sites, although several smaller, presumably seasonal occupation sites have also exhibited such features. Petroglyphs in this

area usually occur in the form of cupped or pitted bedrock outcrops and boulders and have been documented as present at least 2,000 years ago;

5. *Lithic Scatter Sites* - This site type represents one of the most widely distributed types throughout northern Sierra Nevada and Foothill areas, and is known to occur not only in conjunction with major and seasonal occupation sites, but in the absence of accumulated occupation debris along ridgelines and flats adjacent to minor water courses, in open terrain where natural outcrops of basalt or chert occur, and around the margins of vernal pools;

6. *Stone Habitation and Special Use Features* - In the northern Sierra Nevada foothill zones, such features co-occur most frequently with fishing stations along major and minor streams, in association with major occupation sites in the form of stone-lined hearths, and occasionally in foothill areas in the form of hunting "blinds" or short wall segments of undetermined function;

7. *Quarries* - Such sites occasionally occur at outcrops of chert, quartz, and other minerals throughout the County;

8. *Mortuary Sites* - Numerous mortuary sites have been documented throughout Nisenan territory, usually in association with primary occupation sites;

9. *Trails* - Trails have been documented at numerous locations throughout northern California, usually following watercourses, and most often observed at natural crossings.

Clearly, it was not expected that all of these site types occur within the project area, but that these represent the most likely site *types* to be present, based upon background information available.

Historic Context: There is clear historic evidence that Spanish and Mexican expeditions and early fur trapping ventures visited the northern Sacramento Valley area, including the drainages of the Feather, Yuba, Bear, and American Rivers, during the early 19th century. However, the first major incursion by White men occurred during and just prior to the Gold Rush period. Trappers employed by the Hudson's Bay Company visited the region between 1830 and 1841. These early travelers helped scout the route for an overland trail from the Mississippi River to California. Later emigrants often arrived via the California Emigrant Trail, a branch of which crossed the High Sierra through Donner Pass and followed mountain ridges and streams to a point on the north side of the Bear River approximately 4 miles east of Wheatland (Kyle 1990:538), immediately north of the present project boundary.

Don Pablo Guiterrez, General Sutter's Mexican employee, built an adobe house adjacent to the north side of the Bear River on his Rancho de Pablo, which includes lands within the present project area (Kyle 1990:540). Guiterrez was killed in 1844 during the Micheltorena Campaign, and Sutter, being the magistrate for the region, subsequently auctioned the Rancho on December 22, 1844 (Gudde 1969:158). The Rancho title was granted to William Johnson and Sebastian Kayser, Johnson taking the eastern half (including the present project area) and Kayser the western half. Johnson built an adobe house at the crossing point of the Bear River where the California Emigrant Trail terminated. This place became known as Johnson's Ranch, and in 1849, a portion of the ranch was set aside as a government reserve known as Camp Far West (Gudde 1975:57). A military post was established at Camp Far West for the protection of settlers in the area, and was abandoned in 1852. A minimally producing, dry washing of gold was worked from Camp Far West in 1876 (ibid.). The town of Wheatland was established on a portion of the Johnson Ranch in 1866 (Kyle 1990:540).

Other historically prominent individuals in the project area include Theodore Sicard, a French sailor, who settled in the immediate vicinity in 1844 and constructed an adobe house on the south bank of the Bear River approximately one half mile northeast of Johnson's Crossing. Claude Chana, another Frenchman, discovered gold in nearby Auburn Ravine on May 16, 1848, about four months after Marshall's original discovery at Coloma (Kyle 1990:259). From this point through the mid-1880's, this area became known as the Lincoln Mining District (Clark 1970:113) and was intensively mined. Placer mining came first, followed in the late 1850's by drift and hydraulic mining.

Clearly, a number of important individuals and early historic camps, settlements and features are located in the vicinity of the project area, and project area lands figured importantly in local and regional historic themes.

Survey Strategy, Recording, and Field Work

Survey Strategy: During the field survey it was discovered that there was little variation in terrain and sensitivity throughout the project area. As a consequence, all of the project area was surveyed at the intensive-level, which was achieved by walking systematic transects spaced at approximately 20-30 meter intervals. In searching for cultural resources, the surveyor took into account the results of background research, and was alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Recording Strategy: Whenever a previously unidentified cultural resource was encountered which would qualify for evaluation under NRHP eligibility criteria, its location was to be plotted onto a USGS topographic map and would be assigned a temporary field accession number. Complexes of features meeting minimal temporal and other eligibility criteria would be identified as sites and recorded in detail on SHPO-approved Archaeological Site Record forms. Isolated, individual components would be considered "features", and appropriate locational and descriptive information would be secured in field notebook form. Locations for recorded sites would be documented in terms of section quadrants, textual description, and UTM coordinates. For recorded sites, the environmental setting would be described in terms of local geology, landform, slope, aspect, soils, hydrology, and vegetation, while the dimensions of all sites and features would be recorded in metric units. Graphic documentation for sites and formally recorded features would include planimetric site sketch maps accompanied by compass bearings and distances to key features within the immediate vicinity.

Field Work: Field work for the present project was undertaken on April 17 and 18, 1996, by Supervisory Archaeologist Sean M. Jensen. No special problems were encountered during the course of field work, and all survey objectives are considered to have been satisfactorily achieved.

PROJECT FINDINGS

General Observations

Field work identified the following general conditions within the project area. As noted in previous discussions, disturbance to the ground surface ranges from moderate to substantial. Existing developments cover an estimated 5-10% of the project, and include bulldozed access roads and levee systems, numerous ranch features related to on-going cattle operations, powerlines, and fences. Adjacent lands are currently utilized for fruit tree orchards, with irrigation water supplied by buried pipelines adjacent to and/or proceeding through the present project area.

Vegetation reflects past disturbances. In the northern parcel vegetation is dominated by gray pine, oak, brush, and grasses, with riparian species such as willow, poplar, blackberries, and clovers observed in wet areas adjacent to the abandoned course of the Bear River. Vegetation in the southern parcel is identical to the northern parcel in all ways except for the absence of gray pine, and less dense brush.

Large, mature white oak trees are located along the margins of the original and current Bear River alignments. Although the tree canopy along the margins of the Bear River has been narrowed in order to expand adjacent agricultural fields, many are of substantial size and some were undoubtedly in existence prior to the arrival of Euroamericans circa. AD 1840. A modified riparian association exists along segments of the River, where berry vines, cattails, willow, and a variety of grasses are present.

Specific Findings

Prehistoric Resources

Evidence of prehistoric activity was observed at 4 locations within the project area. These are represented by cores, large primary reduction flakes, and small interior flakes of basalt. These finds were observed along the margins of the current alignment of the Bear River. A thorough inspection of lands surrounding each of these finds failed to identify any additional evidence of prehistoric presence or activities, and all are therefore considered "Isolates" without residual research or other values.

The absence of more substantial accumulations of prehistoric cultural material was somewhat unexpected. The degree of past disturbance to the project area is considered to be a partial explanation. Moreover, it should be noted that the four Isolates located within the southern parcel may have been imported with levee fill.

Historic Resources

Historic documentary research clearly indicates use of the project area during the middle and latter half of the 19th Century and the first half of the 20th Century, primarily for agricultural activities and cattle ranching by William Johnson and subsequently the Estate of Samuel Mills Damon. Direct evidence of the early Johnson Ranch, including the adobe houses, hotel, and crossing are discussed in Horn (1988), and these areas are clearly located outside of the present project boundaries. No evidence of the California Emigrant Trail was observed within the project area. This fact is supported in the historical archives for the Trail, which describe its terminus at the Johnson Ranch, located adjacent to the north side of the original alignment of the Bear River. Additionally, 100+/- years of agricultural/ranching

activities have likely disturbed/modified any portions of the Trail which may originally have proceeded through the project area. Likewise, historic road alignments bordering portions of the project area have been fully modernized and upgraded over the years, and the historic attributes of these old roadways lost in the process -- these roads have been widened, paved, graveled, and periodically re-worked in conjunction with maintenance of a substantial levee/ditch system which now parallels the old stream course.

The 1856 Johnson Rancho plat indicated a mill structure located within the eastern portion of the project area. A thorough examination of this area failed to identify any evidence of a mill or any other structures or associated can scatters or refuse dumps. Conversations with a ranch employee who has lived on the property for 75 years failed to elicit any information related to such a structure or structural remains on the property.

Contemporary Elements

As noted above, evidence of contemporary use and activities was observed throughout the project area in the form of bulldozed access roads, cleared and leveled pasture land, cattle feeders, fences, power lines, stock ponds, shallow ditches excavated to fill stock ponds, and wholly modern structures and attributes related to ranching and farming (esp. irrigation features). None of these represent potentially significant cultural data, however, and no further treatment is warranted or recommended.

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Specific Recommendations

Four prehistoric Isolates were identified during pedestrian survey within the project area. By definition, the Isolates do not qualify as archaeological sites, and no further treatment or consideration is warranted or recommended for the Isolates in relation to proposed levels of development or proposed changes in land use.

General Project Area Recommendations

In view of the absence of significant prehistoric or historic cultural resources within the present project's APE, archaeological clearance is recommended for Patterson's proposed undertaking, with the following general provision:

> The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that potentially significant unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future development or construction activities. In such a situation, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

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